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For more information
Please contact:
Rick Brown
Adobe Systems Incorporated
415 962.6060
<http://www.adobe.com/>

Adobe Introduces Adobe Acrobat 3.0 Software

Provides Easy Solution to Create and Share any Document on Corporate Intranets and the World Wide Web

Mountain View, Calif. (June 3, 1996) (Nasdaq:ADBE) — Adobe Systems Incorporated announced today Adobe® Acrobat® 3.0 software, providing business customers with one of the fastest and easiest solutions for sharing any document on-line. With version 3.0, mainstream business customers can use existing software tools, such as word processors, spreadsheets, presentation and page layout packages, to create rich, cross-platform documents that are completely integrated with corporate Intranets and the World Wide Web.

Adobe Acrobat 3.0 provides key features that optimize Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files for browsing, serving and searching on the Internet. As a result, customers will be able to quickly view, search and download PDF files directly within popular Web browsers, such as Netscape Navigator™ client software and Microsoft® Internet Explorer™. In addition, Acrobat 3.0 software greatly extends the ability of average desktop computer users to get a broad set of document types into a completely portable, Web-ready format. This includes the ability to scan and convert paper documents into PDF files, to create and use highly formatted electronic forms, and to integrate multimedia elements into PDF files using dynamic controls.

“By integrating Acrobat software with the World Wide Web, Adobe significantly increases the quality and type of content that customers can use on the Internet,” said John Kunze, vice president and general manager of Internet Products and Technologies, Adobe Systems Incorporated. “Acrobat gives business customers a simple and complete Internet solution for distributing information on the Web. Now corporations can represent almost any document on-line, including forms and paper-based documents, using a single, rich format and one application.”

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Acrobat 3.0 extends the capabilities of Acrobat software to provide customers with a much richer experience of content on the Web. Customers will be able to seamlessly view PDF content directly within Web browsers that support the Netscape Navigator Plug-in Application Programming Interface (API). In addition, Acrobat 3.0 optimizes PDF files to be quickly downloaded by allowing customers to retrieve and view individual pages. Only the bytes necessary to display any given page are downloaded and separate objects on the page are progressively rendered. Optimized PDF files will render text first while larger objects, such as images, will be downloaded in the background and rendered afterwards.

“By leveraging the Netscape Plug-in API, Adobe Acrobat 3.0 makes it easy for the over 30 million users of Netscape Navigator to view, search and download PDF files on the Internet as easily as they browse HTML documents,” said Mike Homer, Senior Vice President of Marketing at Netscape Communications Corporation. “The Acrobat Plug-in for Netscape Navigator enables users to access the wealth of PDF information on the Web, such as critical business documents created with a broad set of desktop authoring tools.”

Adobe also announced it will provide a Microsoft® ActiveX™ control for Acrobat 3.0 software. As a result, customers will be able to integrate the ability to view and control PDF files in a wide variety of applications supporting ActiveX technology, including Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0.

“The ability to easily access rich information from the desktop is one of the most important features driving the acceptance of the Web,” said Brad Chase, General Manager, Internet Platform and Tools Division, Microsoft. “Adobe’s support of ActiveX will enable Acrobat customers and developers to fully exploit all the features of PDF in the widest variety of applications and browsers.”

New Features

- Integrated viewing within popular Web browsers

Acrobat 3.0 software offers integrated viewing of PDF files directly within World Wide Web browsers that support the full Netscape Navigator Plug-in API or Microsoft ActiveX controls.

- Page-on-demand serving and progressive rendering

Page-on-demand downloading ensures fast access to PDF files across the Web. Progressive rendering of PDF pages means that text is rendered first, using a substitute font if necessary, followed by hypertext links and images. Any embedded fonts are downloaded and drawn onscreen last.

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- Acrobat Capture™ plug-in to scan and OCR paper documents

With the Acrobat Capture plug-in for Acrobat 3.0, customers can scan in paper documents and easily convert them into PDF files. The Acrobat Capture plug-in combines document imaging, optical character recognition (OCR), and other technologies to convert paper-based information into PDF. Unlike OCR products, the Acrobat Capture plug-in preserves the exact formatting, page layout, text and graphics, from the original paper pages in a cross-platform format that can be easily shared on the Web.

- Full-text searching

With Acrobat 3.0 software, searching PDF files on the Web can be as easy as searching HTML documents. Adobe provides a development toolkit that allows vendors of full-text searching solutions to index and retrieve PDF files on Web servers. In addition, Acrobat 3.0 includes full-text searching technology from Verity, Inc. that allows customers to search collections of PDF files on corporate networks or CD-ROMs.

- Interactive forms

With Acrobat 3.0, customers can create and fill in highly formatted, interactive PDF forms. Acrobat 3.0 forms support includes text fields, multi-line text fields, combo boxes, list boxes, radio buttons, and checkboxes, with extensive control over appearance, tab order and behavior. Actions can include posting forms data in HTML to the Internet. Forms data can also be received from a host server to update a form and its appearance dynamically, without having to resend the entire form.

- Dynamic controls for multimedia elements

Acrobat 3.0 software allows customers to create dynamic controls, such as buttons or live areas on a page that perform a variety of actions, including playing movies or sounds and executing navigational controls or Acrobat menu items. Through dynamic controls, PDF files can incorporate multimedia and interactive elements that enrich end-user experiences with electronic documents.

- Kanji support

With Acrobat 3.0 software release, Acrobat Reader, Acrobat Distiller™ and Acrobat Exchange™ now support multiple-byte Asian languages: Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Customers can use Acrobat 3.0 software to create, display and print PDF files that contain characters from these languages. In addition, Acrobat 3.0 software will include two Japanese fonts that can be used on any Microsoft Windows® system or on an Apple® Macintosh® system with KanjiTalk or a Japanese Language Kit.

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Pricing and availability

Priced and packaged for the business desktop market, Adobe Acrobat 3.0 software provides everything a customer needs to create Web-ready documents. Windows and Macintosh versions of Acrobat 3.0 software include Acrobat Exchange, PDFWriter, Acrobat Distiller, the Acrobat Capture plug-in, Acrobat Catalog and Acrobat Reader in a single box, which customers can optionally install to meet their specific needs.

Windows 3.1, Windows NT™, Windows 95, Macintosh and Power Macintosh® versions are expected to be available in August, 1996, for a suggested retail price of \$295. OS/2®, SunOS™, Sun™ Solaris®, HP-UX, and AIX® versions of Acrobat 3.0, which will include Acrobat Reader, Acrobat Exchange and Acrobat Distiller, are expected to be available in September, 1996, for a suggested retail price of \$295. Free versions of the Acrobat Reader software, for Macintosh, Windows, Silicon Graphics® IRIX®, SunOS, Sun Solaris, HP-UX, AIX and OS/2, are expected to be available beginning in August, 1996.

Beta versions of Acrobat Reader 3.0 and software for optimizing existing PDF files for efficient Web delivery are available now for free from Adobe's World Wide Web server at <http://www.adobe.com/acrobat/3beta/>.

Based in Mountain View, Calif., Adobe Systems Incorporated develops and supports products to help people express and use information in more imaginative and meaningful ways, across all print and electronic media. Founded in 1982, Adobe helped launch the desktop publishing revolution. Today, the company offers a market-leading line of application software and type products for creating and distributing visually rich communication materials; licenses its industry-standard technologies to major hardware manufacturers, software developers, and service providers; and offers integrated software solutions to businesses of all sizes. For more information, see Adobe's home page at www.adobe.com on the World Wide Web.

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